



PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 7528.0003-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application No.: 09/981,790 )  
Inventors: Todd J. MORTIER et al. ) Group Art Unit: 3738  
Filed: October 19, 2001 ) Examiner: Unknown  
For: VALVE TO MYOCARDIUM )  
TENSION MEMBERS DEVICE )  
AND METHOD )

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification, as follows:

on page 2, please replace the first full paragraph, lines 6-12, with the following new paragraph:

-- It has been argued that valve repair is preferable to valve replacement if the leaflet-chordae-papillary connections can be maintained. Heart wall stress will increase if the chordae are cut during valve replacement. It has been shown that by severing the chordae there can be 30 percent (30%) reduction in chamber function.

Mitral valve replacement has high mortality in very sick, chronic heart failure patients.

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